

REMARKS

The present application is a Rule 114 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of parent application Serial No. 09/581,602, filed August 18, 2000.

In an amendment after final filed November 28, 2005, applicants amended claims 36, 41, 45, 49, 51 and 52 to further patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. During a telephone conference on December 21, 2005, the Examiner advised that the November 28 amendment after final would not be entered because the amendments raise new issues requiring further search and consideration. The present RCE has been filed to obtain entry of the November 28 amendment after final.

By the present RCE, applicants submit this preliminary amendment adding new claims 53-68 to provide a fuller scope of coverage.

Early and favorable action on the merits are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

Bruce L. Adams
Reg. No. 25,386

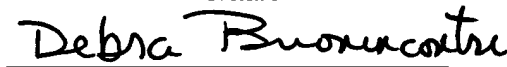
17 Battery Place
Suite 1231
New York, NY 10004
(212) 809-3700

MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

DEBRA BUONINCONTRI

Name



Signature

December 21, 2005

Date